

DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for

Steve Morris, Chris/Dennis Branham, David Haeg, Joel Newton,
Michel Bieri, Dennis Lattery

I. Decision:

It is my decision to authorize special recreation permits for a period of five years to the listed applicants in Environmental Assessment No. AK-040-02-EA-020, for commercial big game guiding operations on BLM administered land in Guide Use Areas (GUAs) 09-04 and 09-02. The standard stipulations for special recreation permits are attached to the Decision Record and the authorizing permit.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The rationale for the decision is to meet anticipated public demand for quality outfitted guide services. These services provide safe recreation and hunting opportunities in remote or relatively inaccessible locations on the south side of Lake Iliamna and on the west side of Cook Inlet from Iniskin Peninsula down the coast to McNeil Cove.

The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP), approved in November 1981.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The Proposed Action will not restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources and no limitation on harvester access to subsistence species will result from the Proposed Action.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

Case File No.: AA-78438, AA-69980, AA-77018,
AA-84079, AA-84081, AA-78670,
Document No.: AK-040-02-EA-020

VI. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

Monitoring will be conducted as part of a yearly compliance exam. These inspections assure that the permittees are in compliance with the stipulations and conditions attached to their permit.

/s/ Peter Ditton
Anchorage Field Manager

August 1, 2002
Date

Attachments:

1. Environmental Assessment, AK-040-02-EA-020
2. Stipulations

BLM ANCHORAGE FIELD OFFICE
SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT (SRP) STIPULATIONS AND CONDITIONS

1. This Special Recreation Permit (SRP) authorizes the applicant to conduct guided spring and fall hunts on the BLM-administered lands in GUA 09-04 and 09-02. Access to these areas will be by plane and boat. All hunting will be conducted by foot. Temporary tent camps are authorized. They may vary in location depending upon location of game. Unless specifically authorized, there will be no permanent structure erected or items cached in the field.
2. BLM permits can be amended or revoked at any time to comply with State requirements.
3. A SRP represents a nonexclusive privilege authorizing special uses of public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the amount of use. The Authorized Officer may suspend a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or for noncompliance with permit stipulations. In the event that the lands are transferred to another Federal or State agency or a Native corporation, the permit will expire.
4. Any aircraft utilized by the operator must carry liability and property damage insurance.
5. Adequate insurance must be obtained by the permittee and kept current in order to protect the user, the permittee, and the U.S. Government against liability and litigation. The minimum general liability limits are: \$100,000 or \$300,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury (State limits for guides HB-112), \$10,000 property damage per occurrence and \$25,000 annual aggregate, if the policy specifies aggregate limits. The policy shall list the U.S. Government as an additionally insured. The insurance must be for the company name authorized under the permit.
6. Unless specifically authorized, a SRP does not authorize the permittee to permanently erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on the public lands. Any use of the public lands is subject to the condition that upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to preexisting conditions. Use sites may be subject to relocation by the Authorized Officer, if significant degradation of resources is apparent.
7. The permittee assumes the responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., natural landing areas, river channels, land slides, stream crossings, rocks, changing water and weather conditions, dangerous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility. The permittee must promptly inform BLM of any potential hazardous waste sites.

8. This multi-year (5 year) permit must be validated annually through the 2006 use season. This can only occur when the permittee has paid annual fees, provided any necessary policies and licenses, and received an acceptable or probationary annual performance rating.
9. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and local laws. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State or local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients or customers under the permittee's supervision.
10. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. No property or preference right is conveyed by this permit. The use of the permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
11. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of Federal land by other users.
12. The permittee may not assign, sublease, or contract any portion of the permit activities without prior authorization from BLM.
13. The permittee must present or display a copy of the SRP to a participant, Authorized Officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. Any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent may be examined up to three years after expiration of the permit.
14. No cutting of live vegetation is allowed. Vegetation will be left in its natural state.
15. Human solid waste must be buried and covered with soil at least 100 feet from any stream, wetland or gravel bar. Unburnable garbage will be back hauled from the area and deposited in an approved waste disposal site. All fire rings/pits must be destroyed after use.
16. All fuel will be stored a minimum of 150 feet from any water body. All fuel and fueling supplies will be back hauled from your camps and disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal site. No dumping of fuel in pits on public land is authorized or tolerated.
17. Camps will be kept clean at all times to prevent the creation of an attractant for bears to

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camping areas. Breakdown and removal of campsite facilities will be within 15 days of the end of seasonal use periods.

18. If there is significant damage to the soil or vegetation around the camp location, the Authorized Officer may require relocation of the camp.
19. Each permittee is subject to the stipulations and conditions checked on the back of the original permit. BLM permits can be amended or revoked at any time to comply with State requirements.
20. OHV use will be limited to the immediate vicinity of base camps for camp support functions.